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OCCASIONAL

LETTERS

ON THE

PRACTICE

OF

INOCULATION.

Greenhill

J. Greenhill

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ON THE

TRACED

OF



INOCULATION

CHURCH

LONDON

OCCASIONAL
LETTERS, &c.

To ———

Reverend Sir,

AS you have publicly afforded an helping Hand for the advancing the Practice of Inoculation, you are desired by one of the same Profession with yourself to consider, whether you have not herein been a little too forward; for out of the Numbers of Persons inoculated, very few there are, that really have that Distemper the Small-Pox, few or none ever having the second Fever, which attends the Turn, that strong and violent Effort in flinging off the Virulence of that Disease in the natural Way; and though it is allowed, that where Infection takes Effect in the artificial Way Persons are not liable to have that Disease the Small-Pox. yet without such Effort of Nature, as
there

there is on the Turn in the natural Way, no Man can tell; what Seeds of future Disorders may be hoarded up, and retained in the Blood, the People of that Country, from whence Inoculation was brought into this, being frequently found to have the most infectious Distemper, Mankind is made liable to; but was it otherwise than thus with Inoculation, you cannot but know, and be pleased a little to reflect hereon, how we are commanded in respect of all our distant Views of Happiness to confine our Care thereafter, within the Bounds of a due and proper Care, and certainly it is soon enough to send for the Doctor, and see him to apply his Skill, and Art to cure at the first coming of Disease, and not when men labour under no Illness, but are blessed with Health of Body to such Degree, as they in all Reason can expect, and ought to be satisfied with; and do but observe the Condition of those in your Parish, to whose being inoculated you have been instrumental only for three or four Years, and then you will see, whether your inoculated Parishioners are any wise bettered, or not?

not? from Exactness herein from a Person in your Station and Circumstances a better Judgment may be made hereof, than from numbers of Observations too hastily made, we cannot indeed see the Substance of Man's Being, and so truly note and compare his State before and after Inoculation, as really to see, whether it is made better or worse thereby; yet some kind of Judgment hereof may be formed from such Instances as are within our own Knowledge, and from the best Observations in such Cases we can make for a Length of Time, if you know of any better Way, than that intimated by this Letter to make a People see, whether Inoculation is a presumptuous Stretch of Physick, and a destructive Piece of Quackery, or not? you ought now to oblige the Public with it, when many are running into the Practice with more haste than can be with good speed, to themselves, their Neighbours and their Families.

SURREY, *March*

2d, 1767.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

To A RELATION.

I ON the second of this Instant wrote to you, among other things acquainting you, that I had addressed a Letter to a Promoter of Inoculation in this County; I sent this Letter to the Person who printed my Sermon against Inoculation, letting him know, that the writer of that Letter was desirous it might be put into the News Papers, and that inserting it in one of his would oblige the writer of it. In looking over the News Papers of last Week, I saw in one of the fifth Instant the Reason why no Notice was taken of my Letter, I herewith send it you, which I would have put into as many News Papers, as the Publishers thereof will permit, I do not grudge any Money, they must have, for now unless I am very much mistaken, a deluded People with great Eagerness, and a cursed Confidence are swallowing Quack Medicines in the highest Degree destructive to the Soundness of their Mind, and Body. I do not see that there is any
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thing in my Letter unreasonable, or what any of the Messrs. *Suttons*, or any other Inoculators could except against, if they were willing to bring Inoculation to a fair Trial, and put it on the Test of Truth.

March 9th,

Your, &c.

1767.

To the Same.

I HIGHLY esteem and love you and yours, and heartily congratulate you on your eldest Son's having the Small-Pox in the natural Way, and being in such a fair way of doing well; for Children to have the Small-Pox in the natural Way, and get well over it is a great Blessing, as they are neither liable in the more mature Parts of Life to have that sad Disease, nor liable to any of the Evils and ill Consequences, which result from the Quack Imitation of that Disease. We have the Promises of the Life that now is, and of that which is to come; the greatest Danger of Men's failing to obtain these Promises arises from High-Mindedness, Headiness, Self-Sufficiency, and Unwarrantable-Confidence, as such Vices lead to an Insensibility, or at least to an Inconsiderateness of God's continual Providence over us, in order to see the truth of this, we need but observe, that Facts make Propositions as well as Words, now can any one say,

say, who hath the least Sense of Religion (if he will allow himself time to consider) that in the Practice of Inoculation Men in due Humility and Patience acknowledge and confess God to be Lord of Life and Death, and of what appertains thereto, and that this Practice bespeaks and argues but due means of Self Preservation, such as in Reason we can expect God's Blessing to attend. Inoculation makes its fairest appearance of Good in Children, in order to see what real Good there is in it to them, do you, who measure not the Good or Evil of a Practice by Temporal Success, or by the want of such Success, but imagine, that an high Degree of Health of Body succeeds, and that they never feel any bodily Inconvenience from it, will not such a State tend to make them as they come on in Life self-sufficient, confident in Man, and regardless of God's daily care for us, Dispositions of Mind, that cannot be reckoned for Soundness of Mind, and a Man's Happiness consists in having a sound Mind as a sound Body; certainly Ino-

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culation hath this Tendency to teach Children too
 great Confidence in Man, and too little regard of
 God's Providence, for though Children reason
 weakly, yet reason early they do, therefore the
 Ways recommended by Parental Authority make
 Impressions so deep on their tender Minds, as scarce
 ever to be effaced hereafter, be these Ways good,
 or bad, God, who is the giver of every good and
 perfect Gift, always bestows his Gifts to the utmost
 Advantage of his Creatures, and herein though he
 supercedes, yet he doth not counteract the general
 Laws of his Providence, so a Glare of Health may
 follow from the Effects of Physick in Inoculation
 in some few Instances, but that can be no more a
 Blessing to the Impious and Evil, than an Affluence
 of Riches and pompous Titles can be a Blessing to
 such; and I hope that that fear is uppermost in your
 Mind, which is the Beginning, and the End, the
 whole of Man's Wisdom, and that if you thought,
 Inoculation would eradicate this Wisdom out of
 the Minds of your Children, you would not have
 them inoculated; if it would add to their Days the
 greatest

greatest length frail Man can attain to in Life here. The late Bishop *Sberlock*, reflecting on the Judgments of God, and on the Impiety of the Times in the Decay of religious Principles recommends hope of Blessing and Favour from God for the sake of the rising Generation, and accordingly recommends care in their Education in the Principles of our Religion, can the inoculating of Children be a Step consistent with the training them up in the Way, they should not depart from? In this Letter of mine I have written a few of my thoughts concerning Inoculation, that you might see, how I would not have given you the trouble to put my Letter into the News Papers, had I not apprehended that now there was urgent occasion for so doing, I am sensible, that Quacks and their Medicines make too great a Branch of the Business of Publishers of News Papers for them to be otherwise, than very backward in publishing any thing against Quackery, where their view is only to get Money; and I return you many thanks for complying with what I was forced to request of you, and think myself

highly obliged to you for the Pains you have been at therein, as for my Part after what I have written and published against Inoculation, it becometh not me to write any more on that Subject than what is contained in these my Occasional Letters, neither am I inclined to do it.

March 9th, 1767.

Your, &c.

To the Same.

WHEN I reflect on the present decay of Religion, it appears, that, as in any respect the Christian Faith decays, so Credulity and Confidence in some or other shape do arise, for instance, if there is any such Person as is meant sometimes by the Word *Infidel* or *Atheist*, the most superstitious Wretch breathing is not so credulous, and foolishly confident as such an one, if this be true, no wonder that where a due and faithful Care for Health are wanting, Quackery should proportionally make its advance, and now it is advanced beyond any thing in my Memory, for such extraordinary Doctors did not use to have among their Retinue to promote their Practices an officiating Chaplain, and I strongly suspect, that in his Office of returning thanks for his Master's Patients, that all of them cannot heartily and sincerely then join with him in their returning thanks for their being so well after Inoculation, as they were before, they, who
through

through strength of Constitution given, and at the time of their being inoculated not having a Tendency to have much of the Small Pox come off not much hurt, such have great Reason to be very thankful; neither is it to be imagined, that this officiating Chaplain will make so good a Hand of his Book, he is now publishing, as his Master hath made of his Medicines, though it is a Time, when bad Books are swallowed with as much eagerness as Quack Medicines; here it may be said, that this bespeaks my prejudice against this Chaplain, I own it, for either he must be in the wrong, or that part of our Book of Common Prayer, *The Visitation of the Sick* be wrong. Now here I will tell you my thoughts of the Small Pox, that “It is a very
 “ sad and infectious Disease never to be had but
 “ once, and that it brings many to their end here;
 “ that bad and destructive as it is, it is not to be
 “ struck out from the Number of Diseases without
 “ substituting sooner or later something worse in
 “ its Room; that it requires the Aid of the skil-
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“ful and faithful Physician; where such Aid can
 “be had; that in this Distemper some die before
 “it comes out, some of the very Dregs of it, but
 “most of the Fever on the Turn, which, where
 “the Distemper is heavy on the Patient requires
 “the utmost Skill of the Physician, for the Fever
 “attending the Turn in this Disease is peculiar
 “and critical, and Medicines that then can safely
 “abate this Fever, and act in aid of the Turn
 “must be Medicines of great use and benefit; that
 “the common and ordinary Way of treating the
 “Small Pox heretofore used hightens the Distem-
 “per; and the Infection, by there having been
 “given therein hot Medicines, which increase the
 “Fever, or raise profuse and weakening Sweats,
 “and by stifling the Sick in the corrupt Steams
 “thereof in a close Room denying the Sick
 “proper Air and Nourishment; that it is pro-
 “bable, that some Constitutions will not have
 “the Small Pox at all; and certain, that some
 “other Constitutions will have it at one time,
 “but

“ but not at another.” Now what Opinion must you entertain of a Person, who makes use of Medicines of a very powerful Effect in the Small Pox, but from the Manner in which, and the Occasion on which they are administered can be looked upon no other than palliating Quack Medicines, which hide Corruption for a While, leaving it hereafter to work in relaxed, weakened and corrupted Constitutions, yet with the Strength of these Medicines like other Inoculators in order to shew his dexterous Skill in Physick, and to ease People of their Money he gives disease enough to spoil the best Constitution. And People here in this County are so infatuated as to be prevailed upon to undergo a very reducing Preparation in order to be distempered with a Disease, which God, whose loving Correction when borne with Patience and Resignation make us ever in the end great and happy, may in all their Lifetime never see fit to afflict them with, and if he does, it is he alone can see the proper Time, and in their aiming to force this Disease upon themselves, they have Corruption and

Infection

Infection unnaturally mingled with their Blood, when they are well and free from Distemper; what can such Persons mean by so soon parting with their Money, and running the Risque they do by receiving Corruption and Infection into their Blood, to get rid of which all that the utmost Art can do amounts to no more in general than a faint Excretion, and a weak Discharge, whatever particular incidental Circumstances may in some Cases do; besides such physical Reasons against Inoculation, must it not be vain, impious and provoking Presumption in the healthy and sound to imagine that they can get by such a Piece of Quackery a better State, or a more secure Condition of Health, than what they were created and born with. But People here at present are carried away with such fond Admiration of being inoculated that it would be no surprising thing to hear of an only Son's being lost thereby, and yet the Father to persist on in the Practice upon some Motive and Pretence or others, and the People in this County in all Probability will continue busying themselves herein, till some

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publick Incident shall draw their Attention another Way; so that for what sums of Money Mr. *Sutton* hath carried off out of it, he would not be thought much to blame, provided he left nothing bad behind him; for who doth blame harmless Doctors for providing for, and selling innocent Medicines to the Rich and Weak? But this is not the Case with Inoculators those Brokers and Insurers of Health, for it appears that they inoculate more Diseases than the Small Pox from their Patients sometimes having a second Crop of breaking out, or that Disease afterwards, and some Inoculators have had (after all their Care and Caution) some of their Patients die under their Quack Imitation of the Small Pox; The Design of the Messrs. *Suttons* and of those who follow their Practice is more general and extensive, for they can scarcely be said to imitate the Small Pox, their Attempt is bolder, they are for reversing the Small Pox, to compass which Design, they guard their Patients against immediate Death by Preparations, which expose them to lingering and future Disorders, and in the

Manner

Manner they carry their Practice on they should be Masters of Infection too as well as Corruption, for their Patients are turned off with Infection on them, so that several Persons have caught the Small Pox of them and died, yet they go about the Country to the Terror of all who do not approve of Inoculation, and dread the catching the Small Pox, if Persons will have an infectious Distemper, they ought to be obliged to perform a proper Quarentine a Difficulty to settle from the Effects which follow from Inoculation; Carelessness in giving others such a Disease as the Small Pox shews not only the meanest Baseness, but the height of Cruelty. Inoculation in it's best Shape hath proved in some Instances so very hurtful to the human Constitution, that I apprehend, that some Physicians only comply with this Practice, because the Persons with whom they are concerned will be inoculated, a Practice I abhor, and shall in the Manner mentioned to you openly and frankly declare my Abhorrence dreading the Consequences of it; for

the greatest Art and Skill in Physick, and the most powerful Medicines, when needlessly applied, especially in Instances greatly effecting the humane Constitution must degenerate into vile Quackery, or base Imposition in Physick, the ill Effects of which Persons hereafter may in the highest Degree feel both in regard to themselves and others; here you will think, that I am a-running out too far by thus extending the Ills arising from Quackery, and that such kind of Fear argues too much of Despair to become us; I own that if we were to give up and into such extensive Fears and Cares, it would be altogether beyond the Moderation, and the Bounds of the due and faithful Care commanded us, and imply that we have not that Hope, which ever attends Charity, that Christian Grace which we ought daily to pray for both in Regard to ourselves and others, and it is a Property thereof to believe, that God is kind and Merciful to us all, often saving us from our own perverse and destructive Ways, when not too long and too perversely persisted in, and we ought always to act as those, who

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who have in hopeful view before them, how Almighty God, whose Ways are infinitely high above the Ways of Men, and his Thoughts not as their Thoughts, waiteth to be gracious, and that it is He alone who over-rules and bounds the Wills of sinful Men; and that though he hardens whom he will, and sometimes bows the Heart of all the People, even as the Heart of one Man, yet in these as in all his Ways God is wise, good and merciful.

March 24th, 1767

Your, &c.

To the Same.

I HAVE not seen my Letter against Inoculation addressed to a Promoter thereof in this County in any Paper, but in the *Gazetteer* of the 17th Instant, which I concluded in such a Manner, that any Person, who had seen my Sermon against Inoculation, might be almost sure that I was the writer of that Letter, but I see Mr. Say, hath suppressed the Gentleman's Name, to whom it was addressed, if he hath done this on a Supposition that there is any thing in it, that might give that Gentleman Offence, I approve of his so doing, for I would by no means offend that Person, a neighbouring Gentleman of Reputation.

The Good and Religious are disposed to see and acknowledge Truth, yet they may through peculiar Circumstances be drawn into some great Mistakes and Errors, and for a While be left to their own Ways; but Truth is not finally hid from them, in Time they will be brought to see their Errors, these I would never offend in any thing I write,

write, and if any such Offence hath slipped from me, I shall hold myself obliged to any one for the disclosing of it, but I know not how, upon such an Occasion, and so circumstanced as the Practice, upon which these Letters are written, to avoid giving some Offence to others, unless I would basely drop what seems necessary.

When Opportunity offers, and Occasion requires to contend for Truth, then the endeavours of the meanest will be accepted, and to do otherwise argues Fear and Abjectness most unworthy, for we are earnestly to contend for Truth, and when any material Error greatly effecting the Health and Happiness of Man hath got strong hold, that is a Season for our being instant in the Cause of Truth; and now these Letters of mine to you are offered to the Public in hope, that they in some Degree may contribute towards making some Persons more mindful and careful of their real Health and Happiness by drawing them off from those false and delusive Notions of some security in their Health of Body,
which

which have been imposed upon them by Means of
the Practice of Inoculation, too hastily concluded
not to be hurtful; for setting apart all the Reasons,
that may be brought to prove this Practice evil by
direct and plain Inference from what we are com-
manded by the Precepts of our Holy Religion,
which teaches us "Wherefore and whom God
" Almighty afflicts and corrects, and that we are
" not to set our Hearts upon any evil Practice,
" because Sentence against it is not executed speedi-
" ly, and that to be given up to, or left to succeed
" here in our own evil Ways is the surest Judgment,
" that can possibly befall the Sons of Men in this Life,"
setting apart these, and all the Arguments against In-
oculation founded on the Principles of Religion, it is
an erroneous Conclusion in Physick, to conclude that
a Practice therein, because it presently and immedi-
ately doth not hurt particular Constitutions, nor the
healthy and sound, that therefore it is not hurtful.

EAST CLANDON,

Your, &c.

March 27th,

1767.

JOSEPH GREENHILL

F I N I S.

